

Women's Retreat

by Barbara Martinez



Hebrews 12 tells us to run the race marked out for us with endurance. That is what Barbara Martinez, Barbara Bergeron, Latoya Williams, Linda Furuyama, Caryl Shaw, Shirley Halbach, Kim Foreman, Stacie Kopet and Linda Baker did one week-end "on the mountain". We focused on our Savior, we opened our hearts to each other and we shared. For one glorious week-end we were one. We laughed, we cried and some pushed their emotional/spiritual limits.

Some brave souls (not us) stood harnessed on the mountain and dared to sail across the beautiful landscape and land safely on the other side. Others performed less dramatic acts --like eating a bug "for the team". Shirley Halbach and Barbara Martinez did indeed eat a bug, gagging it down and followed by a piece of Hershey's chocolate.

I think I can speak on behalf of all of us who attended when I say we went to the mountain to commune with one another and raise up our God with joy and obedience. We were touched and we were blessed. We encourage you all to run the amazing race. The prize is worth the sacrifice!

Easter Cantata - Raise The Crown

Sunday, April 5th - 6:00 p.m.

At the evening service First Southern is presenting an Easter Musical. We are well practiced and know that you will be blessed by this presentation. These powerful songs of grace and resurrection begin at 6:00 p.m. Hang around after for a time of food and fellowship.

Good Friday Service

April 10th - 7:00 p.m.

We are offering a special communion service beginning at 7:00 p.m. A short video will remind us of the "last supper" that Jesus shared with his disciples. Afterwards we will celebrate the Lord's Supper together.

Easter Sunday Worship Service

April 12th - 10:45 a.m.

Join us for our morning celebration at 10:45 a.m. Pastor Chris will be concluding his sermon series on the great "I AM" sayings. The Easter Message is entitled "I am King of the Jews", taken from John 18:33 to 40. Jesus affirmed to Pontius Pilate that He was born to be king and that He came into the world as a witness of truth.

We will not be holding an evening service on Easter. Please enjoy this time with family.

Movie Night - Fireproof

Sunday, April 19th - 6:00 p.m.

Come see the movie Fireproof with us. "Fireproof is an entertaining and challenging reminder of what it takes to win in marriage!"

A MOVIE A MARRIAGE A MOVEMENT! At work, inside burning buildings, Capt. Caleb Holt lives by the old firefighter's adage: Never leave your partner behind. At home, in the cooling embers of his marriage, he lives by his own rules. His job is to rescue others. Now Caleb Holt is ready to face his toughest job ever...rescuing his wife's heart.

Guest Speaker - April 26th



Pastor Paul Gasigi from Rwanda will be preaching and sharing his testimony. Paul is a survivor of the 1994 Rwandan Genocide and has an amazing story to tell. His wife, Marie Jean, will accompany his testimony with song. Join us to learn of a great light that is shining bright in country that was darkness.

Kim's Corner

A Long Obedience In The Same Direction

Today is our 35th wedding anniversary and our marriage is strong. At first our union was so fragile that many friends and family members advised us not to get married at all. Many predicted that we would not even celebrate our first wedding anniversary. Chris and I faced so many barriers: cultural barriers, language barriers, and racial barriers. I look back on our marriage, and I see God's hand all over us. Without God in our marriage I know that I would not have seen today, a wonderful day when I am happily packing to go to New York to see my first grandchild.

The road to this point has not been smooth. I encountered big boulders crashing down on me that almost killed me. Big rocks blocked the road; gravel made the journey tiresome and difficult. Sometimes, I wanted to give up, and take the easy road out, but God was with me. He carried me when I was exhausted and lifted me up when big burdens fell on my shoulders. With his help, I was able to run the marathon, which requires a long obedience in the same direction.

Chris and I have been going to Africa for nine years, to the same place to the same people, year after year. One Rwandan pastor shared publicly this summer, "Many missionaries come and help, but they don't come back. There are only two groups come back again and again to us. They are Foreman's and Rick Warren". I took this as a complement because we are running a race that requires a long obedience in the same direction. When God called me to go to Africa, I answered that call. The first few years were exciting. I appreciated meeting new people, learning new languages, and experiencing a new culture. However, establishing an on-going mission requires more than excitement. It requires commitment and perseverance - just like a marriage. God calls us to be faithful in all we do. Faithful means that our actions are worthy, dependable, and enduring.



Ethics in Prison

I have been ministering at San Quentin Prison for about 7 years now. I began my visits as part of a seminary program while I attended Tiburon Baptist Church. My friend, Craig, would escort me through iron gates and into a small library across from the Protestant Chapel. We prayed, shared, and ministered to about 10 inmates every Saturday morning.

A few years ago, the Seminary began to offer Contextualized Leadership Development (CLD) classes at San Quentin. Since I already had gate access, I agreed to teach. My first class was *New Testament Greek*. This class began with 16 students and dwindled down to three. As things turned out, it was impossible to "contextualize" Greek. The next class, *Preaching the Gospel*, was more successful. Then came *Intro to New Testament* and now *Christian Ethics*.

Whenever I tell folks that I'm teaching ethics to prisoners, they smile at the irony. Yet, as I meditate upon my nine inmates studying ethics, I see the fitness of the whole thing. As we discuss dishonesty, immorality, theft, violence, and even murder, I recognize the voice of experience. Because my students are Christians as well as prisoners, the voice is not boastful, but matter-of-fact and often remorseful.

My incarcerated students have two things going for them in this ethics class. First, they know that they are sinners. Unlike many of us who sit in church pews, most prisoners will admit to being "less than perfect". They know the pit into which they fell. They recognize the need of a savior. Next, the eyes of my incarcerated students are wide open. They have eaten fully from the tree of the knowledge of Good and Evil. I have never spent a night in jail, but my students know better than most the degradation of sin and the amazing grace of God. "The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light: they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined. [Isaiah 9:2]"



Sunday School 9:30 am
Morning Worship 10:45 am
Evening Worship 6:00 pm



Wednesday Evening Family Fellowship
5:00 p.m.

"Pray for Our Men and Women in Uniform"

Mike Brown - Son-In-Law of Al & Jane Thornell
Branch - Marines Rank - Master Sergeant
Assignment - Stationed in Japan through August

Todd Shaw - Son of Bob & Caryl Shaw
Branch - Army Rank - Staff Sergeant
Assignment - Stationed in Kentucky

Devon Henesley - Grandson of Jean Johnson
Branch - Navy Rank - Petty Officer 3rd class
Assignment - Overseas

April Calendar

- 1st - Wednesday Dinner & Fellowship - 5:00 p.m.
- 4th - Church Work Day - 9:00 a.m.
- 5th - Easter Cantata - 6:00 p.m.
- 5th - 12th - Annie Armstrong Week of Prayer
- 8th - Wednesday Dinner & Fellowship - 5:00 p.m.
- 10th - Good Friday Service/Lord's Supper - 7:00 p.m.
- 12th - Easter Sunday
No Evening Service
- 13th - Rest Home Ministry - 11:00 a.m.
- 15th - Wednesday Dinner & Fellowship - 5:00 p.m.
- 19th - Church Council - 5:00 p.m.
- Movie Night - 6:00 p.m.
- 22nd - Wednesday Dinner & Fellowship - 5:00 p.m.
- 23rd - Open Door Mission - 6:15 p.m.
- 25th - Men's Breakfast - 8:30 a.m.
- Women's Fellowship - 9:30 a.m.
- 26th - Business Meeting - following morning worship
- 27th - Rest Home Ministry - 11:00 a.m.
- 29th - Wednesday Dinner & Fellowship - 5:00 p.m.



- 4th - Al Marsh
- 12th - Logan Villafuerte
- 13th - April Machetta
- 19th - Rachel Bocar
- 19th - Barbara Day
- 21st - Tuta Hillard
- 23rd - Richard Bocar
- 25th - Diana Belger
- 29th - Edith Currie



- 7th - Sean & Brenda Kelleher
- 13th - Al & Lillie Marsh



First Southern Baptist Church Newsletter

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Alleluia!

Jesus Lives, Let us Rejoice!

Week of Prayer - North American Missions

April 5 - 12, 2009

Live with Urgency - Sowing Together for Harvest



In John 4:35-37, Jesus urges His disciples to look at the fields that are ready to harvest, Jesus's followers needed to be reminded that the harvesting could not wait, and that reminder is just as valid today. Certainly North America is filled with fields ready for harvest and fields ready to be sown - or resown - with the eternal-life message of the gospel. Can we afford to wait to move into those fields?

What will your investment into the Kingdom of God be? Will you commit to faithfully pray for our North American missionaries and give sacrificially to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering? Will you work alongside our Southern Baptist missionaries and do your part to sow the gospel in your community.

Sunday Morning Sermon Series

April 5 ~ "I am Jesus of Nazareth" ~ John 18:1-8

April 12 ~ "I am King of the Jews" ~ John 18:33-40

April 19 ~ Encounter with Christ" ~ James 1:1-2

April 26 ~ Guest Speaker - Pastor Paul from Rwanda

Sunday Evening Sermon Series

April 5 ~ Easter Cantata ~ Raise the Crown

April 12 ~ No Evening Service

April 19 ~ Movie Night ~ Fireproof

April 26 ~ Africa Missions Night



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